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~~labeling protocol.~~

- Sub B71 } 31. (Amended) An optical switch for a network having a plurality of nodes, comprising:
- 1) a switch coupled to communication links used for input and output in which a plurality of wavelengths are used to carry traffic on a communications link; and
 - 2) a controller, coupled to said switch, for controlling an operation of said switch by implementing a routing protocol and exchanging routing information with other nodes, implementing a network protocol and forwarding said traffic to a next hop, and implementing a labeling protocol that associates a label with a destination, said label comprising at least one of a wavelength and a fiber number,

the controller controlling said switch such that said switch uses said wavelengths of said link to route said traffic between said nodes of said network.

- ca3 } 32. (Amended) A network, comprising:
- a plurality of nodes for communicating with one another; and
 - a plurality of optical switches for routing traffic between said nodes, each of said optical switches comprising:

- 1) a switch coupled to communications links used for input and output in which a plurality of wavelengths are used to carry traffic on a communications link; and

- 2) a controller, coupled to the switch, for controlling an operation of the switch by implementing a routing protocol, and implementing a labeling protocol that associates a label with a destination, said label comprising at least one of a wavelength and a fiber number,

the controller controlling said switch to direct various wavelengths of traffic from an input link to an appropriate output link as determined by the routing protocol and the labeling protocol.

33. (Amended) A network, comprising:
- a plurality of nodes for communicating with one another; and

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a plurality of optical switches for routing traffic between said nodes, each of said optical switches comprising:

1) a switch coupled to communications links used for input and output in which a plurality of wavelengths are used to carry traffic on a communications link; and

2) a controller, coupled to said switch, for controlling an operation of said switch by implementing a routing protocol and exchanging routing information with other nodes, implementing a network protocol and forwarding said traffic to a next hop, and implementing a labeling protocol that associates a label with a destination, said label comprising at least one of a wavelength and a fiber number,

the controller controlling said switch such that said switch uses said wavelengths of said link to route said traffic between said nodes of said network.

34. (Amended) A method of communicating over a network having a plurality of nodes, comprising:

1) coupling a switch to communications links used for input and output in which a plurality of wavelengths are used to carry traffic on a communications link; and

2) controlling an operation of the switch by implementing a routing protocol, and implementing a labeling protocol that associates a label with a destination, said label comprising at least one of a wavelength and a fiber number,

said controlling including directing various wavelengths of traffic from an input link to an appropriate output link as determined by the routing protocol and the labeling protocol.

35. (Amended) A method of communicating over a network having a plurality of nodes, comprising:

1) coupling a switch to communications links used for input and output in which a plurality of wavelengths are used to carry traffic on a communications link; and

2) controlling an operation of said switch by implementing a routing protocol and exchanging routing information with other nodes, implementing a network protocol and forwarding said traffic to a next hop, and implementing a labeling protocol that associates a

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label with a destination, said label comprising at least one of a wavelength and a fiber number; and

using said wavelengths on said link to route said traffic between said nodes of said network.

36. (Amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of routing traffic over a network having a plurality of nodes, said method comprising:

causing a switch to be coupled to communications links used for input and output in which a plurality of wavelengths are used to carry traffic on a communications link; and

controlling the operation of a switch by implementing a routing protocol, and implementing a labeling protocol that associates a label with a destination, said label comprising at least one of a wavelength and a fiber number,

said controlling including directing the various wavelengths of traffic from an input link to an appropriate output link as determined by the routing protocol and the labeling protocol.

37. (Amended) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method of routing traffic over a network having a plurality of nodes, said method comprising:

causing a switch to be coupled to communications links used for input and output in which a plurality of wavelengths are used to carry traffic on a communications link; and

controlling an operation of said switch by implementing a routing protocol and exchanging routing information with other nodes, implementing a network protocol and forwarding said traffic to a next hop, and implementing a labeling protocol that associates a label with a destination, said label comprising at least one of a wavelength and a fiber number; and

using said wavelengths of said link to route said traffic between said nodes of said network.

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Please add the following new claims:

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-- 38. The optical switch according to claim 1, wherein said traffic comprises data packet traffic, and wherein said labeling protocol is implemented such that said data packet traffic is devoid of packet headers.

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29. The optical switch according to claim 1, wherein said traffic comprises data packet traffic, and wherein said optical switch is devoid of electronic processing of said data packet traffic. - -